2015 AP Winter Break Assignment

2 Options:

Option 1 – Paper
**Option 2 – Study Guide with Answer Key**

For Option 1 you will write a paper of no more than 10 pages, using the same guidelines as before (font size no smaller than 10, spacing no narrower than 1.5, margins no larger than 1”, footnotes and title page + works cited and/or bibliography – neither of which counts for the 10 page limit).

The paper should be in 5 parts and should be replete with quotations and citations.

1. A summary of the main themes (or a focus on one particular theme) of your book. The theme should relate explicitly to government, social organization, or philosophy, not just to an exclusively literary component of the book (if such a thing exists)
2. Compare and contrast those themes (or a particular theme) with that of another philosopher we have studied

3. Compare and contrast those themes (or a particular theme) with that of yet another philosopher we have studied

4. Compare and contrast those themes (or a particular theme) with that of a third philosopher we have studied

5. Your personal concluding thoughts on the matters above.

You may reference works we have NOT read by the same philosophers we HAVE read IF, and only IF, you provide a well-contextualized Appendix with the passages you cite (and surrounding ones) added at the end (does not count towards the 10 page Max.)

Come up with a title that also explains exactly what your paper will be focused on.

Examples:
“Lagerkvist, Orwell, Plato, and Rousseau Walk Into a Bar: 4 Philosophical Views of the Social Effects of Substance Abuse”

“The Long Term: Kadare, Plato, Rousseau, and Machiavelli Contemplate the Inevitable Fall of Societies”

“Lookin’ Lovely, Ladies! Appropriate and Inappropriate Views of Women in the Works of Aristotle, Machiavelli, I Peter, and Voltaire”

“Killing Them with Love: Kindness and Punishment in The Brothers Karamazov, Sattler, Beccaria, and Susskind”

“I Don’t Care What You Want: Assessing the Role of Determinism and Free Will in Selected Works of Hobbes, The Book of Judges, Rousseau, and Sir Thomas Moore”

Extra Credit is possible, though unlikely, for a written paper. Grades lower than 50% are also unlikely.

**Option 2: Study Guides and Test (Blank and Answer Key) = 100 points total**

You will create two study guides (25-30 pts. each) and one test (50 – 60 points) for your book. Each will be accompanied with an answer key which includes PAGE references, as needed.

The Study Guides should have approximately **25 - 30 items each** and be broken into two parts as if the book were to be covered over a two-day period of time.

The test will be constructed to as to approximate 50 or 60 (+ 10 extra credit) points.

Each study guide has three foci:
 1. Preparation of Key Terms and Vocabulary

 2. Focus on study questions which guide the reader to make sure they understand key philosophical and political points of the book

 3. Open-ended related questions which relate to past-knowledge in the course as well as provide opportunities for classroom discussion

Each of these foci should be approximately one-third of each Study Guide.

The 50 (60) point test, on the other hand, should be a combination of three elements:

 1. Comprehension (and reading verification) of the book

 2. Completion of and understanding of the Study Guide

 3. Ability to process the messages and themes of the book to relate to the class in specific and the world in general

Each of these Foci should be approximately one-third of the Test.

In terms of the **point value of test items**, consider the general rule of thumb:

1 point = Multiple-choice, matching and true-false questions

2 points = Fill-in-the-blank (if a no-notes test)

5 points = short answer (or a set of 5 chronologies)

10 points = pro and con answer (something that gives 2 sides of an issue)

15 points = a three-point response

20 points = pros and cons of two different positions

For each of these you create, you need to generate a blank copy of the test as well as a copy of the test with answers (or rubrics) provided. Things such as word searches, crossword puzzles with provided terms, or pure opinion are not to be used on a test to determine mastery of the content.

I will grade your study guides and test based on the appropriateness of individual items as well as the overall quality of the work. 100 points total (with some extra credit possible). Grades may be lower than 50% if the questions and answers provided are insufficient.